



Missouri Department of Natural Resources

Air Pollution Control Program

Department to Implement New Emissions Inventory System

The Department of Natural Resources' Air Pollution Control Program has been working with Tier Technologies to develop an integrated emissions inventory system, Missouri Environmental Information System (MoEIS). By combining all emissions inventory data into one database, MoEIS ensures more accurate and efficient data. This new system will benefit both the Department of Natural Resources and industry.

Department staff will be able to access emissions data from one database instead of searching multiple systems. MoEIS will also reduce the staff time needed for data entry since the information will only need to be entered once. By reducing the number of times data must be entered, the number of errors will also be reduced. In addition, MoEIS automatically conducts quality checks on the data entered to help ensure the accuracy of the data.

The new system can filter site information by various categories and break the information down into subgroups. These features will make it easier to respond to requests for specific data. MoEIS also was developed using common formats, which makes data sharing easier, especially when transferring data to the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). In fact, the EPA praised the first inventory sent by the department using MoEIS.

When the current development phase is complete, MoEIS will greatly reduce the reporting burden placed on industry by allowing electronic submittal of Emissions Inventory Questionnaires (EIQs). The electronic EIQs should also save industry significant time when submitting data. Instead of having to enter the same information on multiple forms, MoEIS will automatically transfer the information from one form to another. Data will also be able to be transferred from one year to the next. The online system is available 24 hours a day, 365 days per year until a company submits their information for the reporting period.

MoEIS has gone through three phases of development. In 1999, the department began the construction of the emissions inventory system by combining the four existing systems into one database. This new system combined over 7,000 paradox tables and Access databases. The second phase was the evaluation of software for creating the online application of MoEIS. The department, with the help of Tier Technologies, evaluated three web development tools in order to find the best selection to fit their needs. The third and current phase of the project is the development of a web portal that will allow the regulated community to submit their EIQs online.

MoEIS is designed for further expansion in the future. Additional modules can be added to accommodate other functions. The Air Pollution Control Program hopes to continue the development of the system to allow online permit applications and fee payments. MoEIS is the department's first effort into electronic government and Government-to-Business transactions.